

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 1928

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on January 3, 1928, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Henry Bird in the chair, with twenty members and nine visitors present.

Mr. Mutchler for the Nominating Committee reported their recommendation that the present officers be reelected.

There being no other nominations the secretary on motion, duly seconded and carried, cast one affirmative ballot unanimously reelecting present officers.

Mr. Davis, in accepting the treasurership for the twenty-fifth year, thanked the members for their approval but urged the propriety of his being excused at the end of his term.

Mr. Bird expressed his gratification in the progress the society had made and in the efficiency of the treasury under the management of Mr. Davis. He referred also with satisfaction to the election of Henry Fairfield Osborn as president of the A. A. A. S.

The President appointed the following committees: Program: Messrs. Mutchler, Weiss and Hartzell; Auditing: Messrs. Bell, Janvrin and E. K. Schwarz; Field: Messrs. Nicolay and Shoemaker; Delegate to the Council of the Academy: Wm. T. Davis.

Dr. Leonard, before delivering his address on "The European Corn Borer, its History and Spread," spoke of the "New York State List of Insects" which may be expected about March 1 and of the Fourth International Entomological Congress to be held in Ithaca during the week of August 13. He then showed with lantern slide illustration, the area under quarantine, the character of the damage done by the corn borer and the measures recommended for checking its ravages, principally designed to deprive the larvæ and pupæ of shelter. The mature caterpillars hibernate in the stubble remaining after the corn is cut. Thorough ploughing in of this stubble, after raking and burning as much of it as possible, leaves a perfectly clean field for operations in the spring. He showed also parasite cages and quarantine lines; but pointed out that even with an appropriation of \$10,000,000 from Congress there was little hope of eradicating the pest. The problem was to discover by experiments on a large scale clean-up measures that could be adopted by farmers without prohibitory expense.

In the discussion which followed it was brought out that the pest was probably introduced in imported broom corn and that it apparently flour-

ished best where tender vegetation of moist localities furnished food for the young larvæ. Mr. Davis spoke with disapproval of the operations of burning gangs on Staten Island, even Virginia Creeper having been destroyed by their ill-judged zeal. Messrs. Angell, Engelhardt, Chapin and Bird added some notes from their personal experiences and Dr. Leonard closed with some facts to show how surprisingly resistant an animal was the corn borer which he characterized as the "Boringest Bug he ever saw."

MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 1928

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on January 17, 1928, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Henry Bird in the chair, with twenty-four members and six visitors present.

The president spoke of amendments to be proposed to the Entomological Code by which after 1930 the naming of a genotype for any new genus would be compulsory; and an inadequate description for any new species would invalidate the name proposed.

Mr. Howard Notman, with the help of about 140 lantern slides, described a collecting trip of 13,158 miles, beginning April 22, 1927, in Brooklyn and ending September 27, 1927, in the Adirondacks. The journey was made in his own automobile without any companions and permitted him to collect about 11,800 specimens at fifty-one localities in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Texas, Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah and Colorado, of the most varied character. The shores of the Atlantic, the Gulf, and the Pacific were included; swamp holes in the southeastern states, arid regions in the southwest; the great forests of the Sierra Nevada, and the snow fields at 11,000 feet elevation were among the illustrations shown. Particular attention was paid throughout to the Carabidæ and especially the genus *Bembidion*; and it was shown by many instances that some degree of moisture was necessary to their existence. In seeking localities favorable to them, many other families were found especially Chrysomelidæ of the genus *Donacia*, water beetles of many families, and Staphylinidæ. Mr. Notman did not devote much time to the species he found, but among the special captures noticed was a long series of *Ochthebius* found in an inland gully near San Diego.

The pictures were exceedingly interesting in the great variety of environments they exhibited and many were beautiful as pictures. Some personal details brought out in the discussion following Mr. Notman's address were the temperatures encountered up to 110° at times, the absence of trouble with the automobile and the friendliness of the people met with.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 1928

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on February 7, 1928, in the American Museum of Natural History;

President Henry Bird in the chair, with twenty-two members and three visitors present.

Mr. Hall, for the Executive Committee, reported the following recommendations:

In the matter of the donation of funds to help meet the expense of entertaining the entomologists attending the Entomological Congress, to be held at Ithaca, N. Y., some date in August next, it is the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the sum of \$150 be appropriated by the New York Entomological Society; and that the treasurer be herewith empowered to draw from the general fund of the Society this amount and forward same to the proper representative of the Cornell Entomological Society, known specifically as the "Jugatae."

On motion by Mr. Sherman seconded by Mr. Hartzell the recommendation of the Executive Committee was adopted.

Mr. Hartzell stated that the Boyce Thompson Institute would probably be prepared to join in defraying the expense of local entertainment of entomologists from abroad who might pass through New York in August. Mr. Sherman said that he and other members would doubtless also wish to join in such entertainment. On motion the Executive Committee was requested to investigate the feasibility of holding a special meeting in August or of otherwise meeting the ideas expressed.

Prof. C. R. Crosby, Ithaca, N. Y., was elected a member of the Society on nomination by Dr. Leonard, the by-laws being suspended to avoid the usual proceeding.

Mr. Mutchler exhibited the Zoological Record for 1926, Insect portion, bought for the Society library.

The president exhibited an advance copy of the "New York State List of Insects," with praise for the editor, Dr. Leonard, and satisfaction in the important part taken by members of the Society in the preparation of the work.

Dr. Sturtevant delivered an interesting address on "The Mating Habits of the Diptera." After referring to the habit of the females in certain families of eating the males, Dr. Sturtevant passed to cases in which the males approached the females only when the latter were eating. Then to cases in which the male brought food to the female in courtship, which food in the case of *Empis poplita* is encased in a frothy balloon. The balloon in other cases may be a fake, elaborately constructed but containing no food, and may be used by a second male. The habits of *Hilaria* and *Rhamphomyia* were discussed and quotations from Aldrich and from Wheeler's translation of Jacobsen were read, especially on the courtship dances of *Drosophila* and *Dolichopodidae*.

In *Drosophila* Dr. Sturtevant gave the results of his own experimental work, with the conclusion that the mating habits were known for such a small percentage of the species of Diptera that much more observation and

experiment were needed, especially in connection with *Dolichopodidae* in which secondary sexual characteristics are strongly developed.

Dr. Sturtevant's remarks were discussed by Dr. Melander and Mr. Bromley, each adding details on the subject from their field observation.

Dr. Philip Garman read a paper on "The Oriental Peach Moth," illustrated by lantern slides.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 1928

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on February 21, 1928, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Henry Bird in the chair, with twenty members and twenty visitors present.

Mr. D. D. Leonard delivered an address, illustrated by lantern slides and numerous specimens, on "The Story of Silk and Its Problems." The total value of raw silk imported was stated at \$450,000,000 as an indication of its importance, and a date of 1700 B. C. was given as a suggestion of the antiquity of this industry of which about 75 per cent. is centered in Japan. From this starting point Mr. Leonard proceeded to describe the processes of raising the *Bombyx mori* and the problems more or less successfully met by the growers. These included various diseases attacking the larvæ, irregularity in the diameter of the fibre, and in the cleanliness and neatness of its preparation. An exhibit of fabrics made from reeled silk, spun silk and mixtures thereof closed the story.

Mr. Leonard's remarks were discussed by Messrs. Angell, Bird and Mutehler.

Mr. Notman exhibited a species of staphylinid beetle, allied to the European *Syntomium æneum*, which he had found in the Adirondacks on three occasions, viz.: Mt. Hopkins trail on fungus at an elevation of about 2,500 feet, Mt. Skylight, 5,000 feet, and Mt. Marcy, 5,300 feet, under vegetable debris. The Alaskan *Syntomium confragosum* was discussed in comparison; and the resemblance, in some respects, of the genus to *Stenina* was noted.

Mr. Frank Johnson exhibited some rare *Morpho* butterflies from Venezuela.

MEETING OF MARCH 6, 1928

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on March 6, 1928; President Henry Bird in the chair, with twenty-two members and thirteen visitors present.

Mr. D. D. Leonard, of the General Silk Importing Co., 440 Fourth Ave., New York City, was elected a member.

Mr. Bromley spoke under the title "Observations on Feeding Habits of Certain Robber Flies." After a general account of the size and habits of the Asilidæ and an enumeration of the common names which have been applied to them, including hornet flies, hawk flies, bee killers, bee panthers, pathfinders, talking flies and snory Joes, Mr. Bromley spoke of the disputed

habit of the larva of *Mallosphora*, whether phytophagous or carnivorous, and the individual tastes of the adults of various species. He described also the different forms of ovipositor and the strong resemblance of some adults to aculeate Hymenoptera. He ended with an interesting account of a conflict between a female *Deromyia* and a hornet. Dr. Melander, commenting upon Mr. Bromley's studies, recalled the commendation of C. W. Johnson about 1915 on them. He then spoke of some of his observations, describing the sleeping habits of one species on Sage Brush in the desert region of the State of Washington, where he had since found 100 fast asleep, all males. He spoke also of the dimorphic males of *Diotrepa*, called *sackeni* and *rivalis*, found on a lake shore in northern Idaho, and of the so-called "ghost trees" on Mt. Rainier, on which the very active *Cyrtopogon* and *Dasyllis* were numerous but hard to catch.

Dioctria

Dr. L. O. Kunkel, of the Boyce Thompson Institute, made an address on "Insects in Relation to the Aster Yellow Disease" in which it was shown that the leaf-hopper, *Cicadula sexnotata*, was the carrier of the disease. The entire subject was reviewed showing the thoroughness with which it had been studied.

Mr. Bird exhibited an illustration in color of the moth *Papaipema placida* made by Mr. Ernest Shoemaker, with the moth itself, stating that it was fortunate that the society, having possessed an artist like Mr. Joutel, had now also one of Mr. Shoemaker's skill.

Mr. Leng exhibited a rare beetle from Australia, *Paussoptinus laticornis* Lea, received from Dr. Walther Horn, of Berlin.

Mr. Bromley exhibited some robber flies from the collection of Mr. Davis, each of them associated with the insect it had attacked and called special attention to *Mallosphora nigra*.

On motion by Mr. Notman, the President was requested to convey to Dr. Leonard and the authorities of Cornell University the Society's appreciation and thanks for the publication of the New York State List of Insects.

Miss Dobroschky spoke of the Bermuda List as probably the next to appear.

Mr. Hallock, present as a visitor, spoke of his official studies on Scarabæid beetles on Long Island, especially the Japanese beetle, the Asiatic beetle and the Oriental beetle, the latter recently introduced.